

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-12 and 14-23 are rejected.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 18-20 and 22 are objected to.

Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 3, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2, 13, 16, 19 and 21-23 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 12, 17 and 20 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-15, 17-18 and 20 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,758,045 to Moon, et al. ("Moon").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 2. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,758,045 to Moon, et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,263 to Dowdell ("Dowdell").

Claims 3, 6, 7 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and inherently include all of the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, these claims are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16 and allowable claim 19. Claim 12 is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 14, 15 and 17 depend from claim 12 and inherently include all of the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, these claims are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claims 13, 16 and 22 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

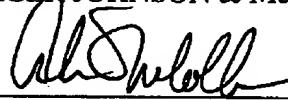
Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 18-20 and 23 (although Examiner actually stated 22, applicant respectfully assumes 23 is the intended claim number) are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants thank the examiner for stating that claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 18-20 and 23 contain patentable subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-12, 14-15, 17-18 and 20 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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